

The FCC, especially under the current administration, has been relaxing standards on how much market power any one licensee can amass. This has led to what many feel is a dangerous consolidation of media power. Unfortunately, my worst fears are now being realized. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a blatantly anti-Kerry piece and calling it "news" is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

If I recall, it was Sinclair that refused to let its stations air a Ted Koppel "Nightline" piece a few months ago that Sinclair felt was critical of the present administration and a Ron Reagan biography it felt was unflattering to Mr. Reagan. This is blatant censorship by an organization that is charged with serving the public interest.

As an attorney with FCC regulatory experience, I yearn for the days when there was some semblance of "fairness" among those entrusted with the "public" airwaves. I urge you to reverse the trend of permitting media consolidation. I fear our republic hangs in the balance.

Thank you.